



OPINION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Supporting Delaware National Guard and HB 69

By Jack Markell, State Treasurer and Peter C. Schwartzkopf, 14th Representative District
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Delawareans can read everyday about their friends, neighbors and relatives who have been called to active duty for the Army and Air National Guard. We are proud of the work these individuals are doing and thankful for the sacrifice they are making. The members of the Delaware General Assembly have a long history of sponsoring legislation to address the needs of those who serve. Education reimbursement, protection of health benefits and park and fishing permits are among the list.

We are very pleased to be a part of a current initiative that has passed in many other states. It is a long overdue way to show our appreciation to those who put themselves in harm's way to protect us. Together with Governor Minner and Insurance Commissioner Matt Denn, we have worked with the Delaware National Guard to draft HB 69, a proposal for the state to reimburse life insurance premiums for Delaware National Guard members on active duty.



Jack Markell

The proposal would create a fund to provide reimbursement for the life insurance premiums paid by guard members who participate in the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance Program. HB 69, to create the program, was introduced last month and already has a number of House and Senate sponsors.

The cost for this program is minimal. If it helps just one family to purchase group life insurance, it will be well worth it should this tragic situation ever occur. Paying for life insurance should not be an obstacle for families who are already putting their lives at risk for us. We also understand the other financial burdens facing our military families and a section of the Treasurer's website, <http://www.state.de.us/treasure/milmoney.shtml>, is devoted to helping military families, especially those who have been recently deployed or re-deployed, understand and address the financial challenges they are facing.



Peter Schwartzkopf

There are other initiatives before the General Assembly this session. We encourage legislators, policy makers and others to support the hard work of the Delaware National Guard and consider all the proposals before them. This is a sacrifice that cannot be overvalued.